The Norman Conquest

The Battle of Hastings.

14th October 1066: Harold takes his position blocking the Norman advance to an Senlac Ridge at the sight of the battle with an army of more than 5,000 weary and footsore men. Harold wants to fight a defensive battle, sitting behind the Saxon shield wall and letting the Normans break themselves against it. It works well and the Breton Knights on the Norman left begin to run. The English right charges down the slope after them, exposing themselves to a devastating counter-attack led by William himself.

However, William is unhorsed and a shout goes out that he has been killed. But William rises and begins to rally his troops. The pause had given the English time to regroup, and the Normans batter themselves uselessly against the reformed shield wall, the English shield wall begins to crack. Harold takes an arrow to his eye and as his men mill around him, four Norman knights break through and hacked him down.

Why did William win?

Harold's mistakes:
Harold didn't wait for reinforcements.
He did not listen to the war council.
Harold changed his attack method.

Luck:
Harold was shot in the eye which reduced Saxon morale.
They break in the weather.